



WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
**OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER**

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**TIM MILEY**  
MINORITY LEADER

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June 11, 2019

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

The Honorable James C. Justice, Governor  
State of West Virginia  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Governor Justice:

It's time to stop wasting the money of the West Virginia taxpayers.

Given the current dynamics and posture of the Extraordinary Session, I call upon you to gather with Speaker Hanshaw and ask the House to adjourn sine die, ending the Session, even at the expense of there being no education reform enacted. Doing so will save taxpayer money and give you and the Legislative leadership time to mend fences and thoroughly prepare meaningful legislation that may actually be mutually agreed upon for the 2020 Regular Legislative Session.

To recap, you called the Legislature into an Extraordinary Session by Resolution dated March 7, 2019, to address education issues. This was done prior to the conclusion of the 2019 Regular Legislative Session when little, if anything, was accomplished toward meaningful education reform.

Like many others, I believed that when we returned for the Special Session, there would be consensus on a path forward for meaningful education reform. Instead, it has turned into chaos, especially since:

- Despite the House of Delegates deciding many weeks ago to take up educational issues in separate bills, Mitch Carmichael ignored the plans of the House and declared that he intended to introduce another omnibus bill, which is substantially similar to SB 451 (which failed miserably during the Regular Session);

- Mitch Carmichael chose not to do the work during the previously scheduled interim committee meetings in June but, instead, called 'Senate only' meetings at taxpayer expense, which was believed to have been done to accommodate his personal travel schedule;
- You have come out and publicly stated that you are against certain parts of the omnibus bill, which I presume means you will veto the bill if it is presented to you;
- If/when the House of Delegates passes separate bills and sends them to the Senate, Mitch Carmichael is likely to reject them and reach the same impasse that occurred during the regular session – all this after having cost the West Virginia taxpayer in excess of \$150,000 for what might be a failed special session;
- There is currently such dysfunction between the Legislative and Executive branches of West Virginia's government that the likelihood of a protracted special session seems to be assured, and at great, unnecessary expense to the West Virginia taxpayer.

The teachers in this state have already spoken – they are willing to forego any pay raise that you, President Carmichael, and Speaker Hanshaw previously promised to them in order to avoid vindictive legislation with which they disagree.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,



Tim Miley  
Minority Leader

cc: The Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Speaker, WV House of Delegates